Railway Protection Force with deployment of aproximately 3,165 RPF arsonnel daily. These deployments are in addition to 2,118 escort parties f Government Railway Police (GRP) deployed on the trains, consisting of 4,872 personnel.

Pending rail projects in Tamil Nadu

2988. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of pending rail projects in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the reasons for delay in the implementation of these projects; and

(c) the time by which the projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) to (c) Pending projects are considered as those projeots which have been included in the budget but clearances are awaited. No such project is pending in Tamil Nadu. However, 02 new line, 09 gauge conversion, 06 doubling and 02 electrification projects falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu are in progress. These projects are in various stages of progress and are being progressed as per availability of resources.

Vacancies in Railways in Madurai Division

2989. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the vacancies of different categories of employees in Southern Railway and especially in Madurai Division;

(b) whether due to a large number of vacancies, there is a possibility of train accidents; and

(c) if so, the action taken to fill up the vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) The vacancies in Southern Railway & vacancies in Madurai Division are given category-wise as under:-

Southern Railway			Madurai Division		
Category	Category	Category	Category	Category	Category
'A' & 'B'	'C'	'D'	'A'& 'B'	'C'	'D'
44	7800	2081	3	761	358

(b) to (c) Arising of vacancies and their filling up is a continous process. Vacancies are filled up mainly through open market recruitment, and promotions. While promotions are done departrnentally, open market recruitment is done mainly through Railway Recruitment Boards. All efforts are being taken to fill up the vacancies especially of safety categories.

Rail Freight Authority

2990. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up a Rail Freight Authority to oversee the establishment of a dedicated freight corridor; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) and (b) it has been decided to set up a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to plan, construct and maintain the Dedicated Freight Corridors. The SPV will also be responsible for movement of trains within its jurisdiction.

Gauge conversion in Rajasthan

†2991. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time frame prescribed for the completion of gauge conversion projects in Rajasthan;

(b) the actual and financial progress of the guage conversion projects in Rajasthan and the reasons for delay; and

(c) the details of the budget provision made for Rewari-Sadulpur, Sriganganagar-Sarupsar and Phulera-Jodhpur, railway line in Rajasthan and whether this provision is sufficient to complete the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) to (c) The details of on-going gauge conversion projects in Rajasthan, budget outlay during 2006-07, physical and financial progress and the target wherever fixed are given as under—

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.